

HE-MAN #12: THE MEKANEK STORY
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FADE IN:

EXT. A ROCKY CANYON WITH TOWERING CLIFFS-- DAY

CLOSE ON MACE crashing FIERCELY against CLAW. WIDEN TO REVEAL – it's MAA battling CLAWFUL. SMOKE OF BATTLE clouds the b.g.

MAA turns to see THRU THE SMOKE: VAGUE GLIMPSES OF MEKANEK, MAN E FACES, STRATOS, RAM-MAN, ADAM & TEELA locked in balletic battle with SKELETOR, TRAP-JAW, WHIPLASH, EVIL-LYN & TRIKLOPS. MEKANEK takes a GLANCING BLAST to his neck <CLANK!> but is unscathed.

<< ESTABLISH we're on a rocky plateau, which overlooks a RAGING RIVER. A RICKETY BRIDGE is the only way across the river. Looking beyond the river's far bank (and the bridge's far side) we can see...many miles away, CASTLE GRAYSKULL. There are towering cliffs that rise up all around the plateau, some parallel to the bridge. (NOTE: In order for the bridge to be "parallel flanked" by towering cliffs, let's have the river flow PERPENDICULAR to the cliffs -- flowing thru natural "tunnels" at the base of two opposite cliffs.) The Masters, 30 yards from the bridge are trying to keep SKELETOR'S forces from reaching it.

ON SKELETOR - as he points his HAVOC STAFF at the ground.

WIDE ON GROUND - magic flame shoots up, forming a chest-high dividing line between the heros and villains.

MAA glances at the bridge and then the cliffs that rise up around it, then calls out.

MAN AT ARMS

Retreat!!

MASTERS seem surprised, but dutifully retreat.

CUT TO: SKELETOR - delighted, leads the charge to the bridge -- flanked by his EVIL WARRIORS. <<We see GRAYSKULL in the far distance, the same direction the bridge leads to.>>

PAN with TEELA and MAA – retreating, to an area closer to a towering canyon cliff. <NOTE: This cliff rises up to an immense height and looms parallel to the bridge.>

TEELA
(incredulous) Why are we letting Skeletor take the
bridge, father? It leads to Grayskull.

MAA arches an eyebrow up at the towering, rocky cliff.

MAA
Not necessarily.

TEELA looks up, sees what he sees and smiles. She gets it.

INCLUDE THE OTHER MASTERS – as TEELA pivots and calls out.

TEELA
Attack the cliff with everything you've got. Stratos,
Man E Faces, hit it high! Ram Man, Adam, hit it
low!

ADAM tarries, smiles at Teela.

TEELA shoots him a look.

TEELA
Move.

ADAM makes an "allright, allright" gesture and moves OS, as MEKANEK comes up to
TEELA and MAA.

MEKANEK
Uh, what about me?

MAA – heading OS, orders:

MAA
Reconnaissance. Let us know if Skeletor calls in
reinforcements.

PUSH IN ON MEKANEK – he gets a deflated look.

MEKANEK
(to self)
Reconnaissance. Yeah, Great.

MAA – moving through shot -- calls out to the Masters who are getting into position to
fire at the cliff walls. <NOTE: The idea is to fire at cliff walls, at such an angle that

boulders will fly off and strike the bridge at the end closest to the Masters. i.e. the part the Warriors have already traversed. Might require some "billiard type" angle.>

MAA
(calls) On my signal.

CUT TO: THE BRIDGE - Skeletor & his forces are crossing it. Skeletor PASSES CAMERA, looking malevolently giddy and focussed on what lies ahead. TRAPJAW and EVIL-LYN follow close behind. TJ turns to Evil-Lyn, wearing a pleased look:

TRAPJAW
This is almost too easy.

ON EVIL-LYN - realizing.

EVIL_LYN
Yes. It is.

EVIL-LYN starts to turn, as we HEAR BLASTS hitting the canyon's cliffs. She REACTS alarmed.

ZOOM IN ON SKELETOR - as he too REACTS, and turns to see:

SKEL POV - an avalanche of HUGE BOULDERS hit a section of BRIDGE they've already traversed. Bridge starts to collapse.

SKELETOR - alarmedly signals his group forward, in the direction they're already heading.

OTS MAA & TEELA - as they see the bridge collapsing...like a row of dominos, till it crumbles underneath the retreating Skeletor and minions...who tumble into the river...which is fast moving and deep. <NOTE: Make it clear that they are not falling to their deaths.>

SKELETOR AND WARRIORS
<Falling cries>

MAA turns, smiles and nods at TEELA. WIDEN TO MASTERS – as they all let out a cry.

MASTERS
<Victorious cheer> YA! Way to go guys!

ON MEKANEK – head raised, doing his "recon." He sees the others cheer, & his expression indicates he feels left out. As he crosses to the others, he starts to lower his

neck -- but it makes a GRINDING METALLIC SOUND <due to the BLAST he received earlier> & grinds to a halt before it can be fully retracted.

CLOSER ON MEK - He now looks even more glum & embarrassed.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD- LATER

MEKANEK - his neck partially raised, sits on a low courtyard wall, glumly. He turns his neck at the sound of laughter, as WE PAN TO SEE: Ram-Man, Adam and Man-E-Faces -
- laughing, celebrating the victory.

MASTERS/MAN E ROBOT/MASTERS

<laughter>/And-I-certainly-hope-Trapjaw-does-not-rust./<more LAUGHTER & additional adlib WALLA>. Adam: Way to go guys!

ADAM looks over from the laughing group to see... (and CAMERA PANS TO) ...the glum Mekanek.

ON MEKANEK – as Adam enters and takes a seat beside him. <NOTE: Mek's neck remains in its partially-raised state.>

ADAM

What's the matter, Mek? We *won* the battle.

MEKANEK

<sigh> No thanks to me.

Mekanek points toward the revelers.

MEKANEK

You and the others did all the real work. I did...
(with disdain) reconaissance.

ADAM

(shrugs) What's wrong with—

MEKANek interrupts, goes on with his gloomy lament:

MEKANEK

--Everything. It's boring. I mean, Man E Faces has his monster strength, Stratos can fly, Ram-Man can knock down anything..Me? I can stretch my neck and look at stuff.



ADAM

Hey, what you do *is* a big deal. Remember He-Man's first battle? You found him -- *and* my father, trapped in that abyss. You totally saved them.

Mekanek rubs his neck as if it's sore and brightens a bit.

MEKANEK

(realizing, bit of pride)

Yeah. I...guess I did help out.

Mekanek tries to lower his neck -- metal screeches -- but it GRINDS TO A STOP before it's totally retracted. He REACTS embarrassed & glum again. Adam looks at him kindly.

ADAM

Oh Maybe you oughta let Man-At-Arms take a look at that.

EXT MAA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

ADAM heads towards MAA's workshop – a cracked Hoverboard slung over his back. Just then, Mekanek, his neck retracted (i.e. fixed), but looking glum, exits and heads out of the workshop. Adam smiles, WAVES.

ADAM

Hey, Mek. How's the neck?

MEKANEK doesn't look up. He passes ADAM, then CAMERA SWINGS to see: MEKANEK heading for the palace gates.

OTS ADAM – seeing this, shrugs, puzzled.

INT. MAN-AT-ARMS WORKSHOP -- CONTINUOUS

MAA is tinkering with a GIZMO at a bench, his back to the door, as ADAM enters and hooks a thumb at the door.

ADAM

What's up with Mekanek?

MAA - after his first line, he stops tinkering and consults his GIZMO'S SENSOR.

MAN-AT-ARMS

Ah Some of his neck bearings were jammed. (beat, then) Too bad about your hoverboard.



Adam furrows his brow and pulls his BOARD from behind his back. He glances at its small crack.

ADAM

How'd you --(embarrassed) You see me plow into that wall?

MAA shakes his head "no" and sets his GIZMO on the table.

MAN-AT-ARMS

My new invention. It can "see" behind people or objects, above treetops...It ought to be a great help in reconnaissance.

Adam - realizing.

ADAM

You...didn't, by any chance show this to Mekanek?

MAN-AT-ARMS

(shrugs) Ah I mentioned it while I was working on his neck. Now let's see that board.

ADAM looks OS with a knowing, concerned look.

CUT TO:

EXT. MISTY LAGOON, EVERGREEN FOREST -- LATER

<NOTE: RE-USE LOCATION FROM SIREN'S SONG> A MIST-SHROUDED BODY OF WATER. Visibility is a little clearer closer to shore, where we see a rock SKIPPING across the surface.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL - Mekanek, beside the lagoon, holding a second rock, which he SKIPS across the water.

MEKANEK

A new invention to help with reconnaissance....Terrific.

ANGLE PAST MEKANEK - as he stoops, to pick up another rock, WE HEAR a SOUND of someone HUMMING.

OLD MAN MARZO (OS)

<humming>



MEKANEK reacts to this disembodied voice -- raises up his neck, looks around -- sees nothing. Puzzled, he lowers his neck ...just as a WOODEN RAFT starts to float in, thru the mist on the lagoon, eerily moving towards shore.

REVEAL - OLD MAN MARZO, a hunched over, old guy on the mini-barge/raft. He wears a large-brimmed, round straw hat and is using a long staff to "Marco Polo" his raft down the lagoon. His raft is full of old junk & bric a brac as if he's a travelling junkman. He's got two ETERNIAN RAT-type critters in a bamboo cage. His raft draws nearer to shore.<NOTE: Marzo speaks in a raspy, frail old man voice -- with a vaguely RUSSIAN or MID-EUROPEAN ACCENT. He comes off as helpless & feeble but we get a sense there's more here than meets the eye.>

OLD MAN MARZO

(Russian type accent)

Ahhh...Amazing the way you can stretch your neck.

MEKANEK - glum.

MEKANEK

Yeah, real amazing.

As the raft comes to the shore, OLD MAN MARZO uses his stick to help himself get off the raft.

OLD MAN MARZO

(with effort) You seem troubled. Perhaps I can help.

MEKANEK - seeing the old guy having difficulty, gives him a hand to help him get onto the shore.

MEKANEK

I don't think so.

MARZO wearily sets himself down on a large boulder, eyes Mekanek.

OLD MAN MARZO

You see an old man. You think: what can *he* do for me? Well, I can grant wishes.

Mekanek looks at the guy skeptically.

MEKANEK

C'mon. (not malicious) If you could, you'd have a better boat.



PAN FROM the SAD-LOOKING RAFT...to MARZO on his rock perch.

OLD MAN MARZO

(sigh) Yes, well. My magic, alas, does not work on myself. But I can grant *your* wish.

Mekanek glances wistfully off. As he speaks, he notes a BIRD in the sky.

MEKANEK

Well, if I had my wish, I'd wish--

(sees the bird, wistful)

I'd wish for flying powers like Stratos. Or maybe, monster strength like Man E Faces, or--

OLD MAN MARZO

(sly)--Why limit yourself? You can have it all. Just counts as one wish.

Mekanek strokes his MECHO-NECK for a beat, skeptical.

MEKANEK

What's the catch?

MARZO shrugs.

OLD MAN MARZO

No catch, just a small fee for my trouble.

MEKANEK

(cautiously) What kind of a "fee"?

OLD MAN MARZO

I simply need you to do me a tiny favor. Retrieve something for me.

Marzo turns away, eyes glinting with great desire.

OLD MAN MARZO

An amulet. Not of any great monetary value, you see..



TIGHT ON MARZO - as he turns back. Coy, fake sentiment:

OLD MAN MARZO

But it was a gift from my dear, departed sister, and
all I have to remember her by.

Marzo reaches inside a pocket and removes an ANCIENT MAP, hands it to Mekanek,
who looks at it.

MEKANEK

The Sands of Fire?

Marzo indicates his own old body.

OLD MAN MARZO

I would gladly get it myself, but frail as I
am...(shrugs)

Marzo smiles and nods "sweetly."

MEKANEK

Ok fine.

MERKANEK looks down at: PUSH IN ON THE MAP -- where a DAGGER SHAPED
OPENING in a cliff is highlighted, as we:

MATCH CUT TO:

ACT II



INT. GRAYSKULL -- LATER

HE-MAN & SORCERESS stroll thru a dark GRAYSKULL passage.

SORCERESS

I sense grave danger. The evil Count Marzo has returned.

HE-MAN

Count Marzo? Name doesn't ring a-

THE SORCERESS waves her arm creating a PUFF OF SMOKE. A scene emerges. OTS HE-MAN and SORCERESS - ON THE SMOKY SCENE - where a regal looking WIZARD stands atop a hill overlooking THE HALL OF WISDOM. From an AMULET that hangs around his neck, a fierce glow emanates. Above him, from a black sky, GIANT MYSTIC FIREBALLS shoot toward the HALL OF WISDOM.

SORCERESS

Many years ago, Marzo's thirst for power had become all-consuming. He attacked the Hall of Wisdom.

COUNT MARZO – Laughing

SORCERESS

The Elders were caught unaware. If not for the army of Captain Miro -

HE-MAN

My grandfather.

SORCERESS nods.

IN THE SMOKY SCENE - A defiant CAPTAIN MIRO races past the the Hall of Wisdom – directs FOUR GUARDS.

CAPTAIN MIRO

(urgent anger) Capture him!

IN THE SMOKY SCENE - CUT TO: MARZO on the hill, watching the Hall of Wisdom being pounded by huge FIREBALLS from the sky.

COUNT MARZO

<cackling>

ON HALL OF WISDOM - as ROYAL GUARDS go charging past CAMERA.

SORCERESS (V.O.)

Capture him they did, but only after a long and costly struggle.

CLOSE ON MARZO - morphing into the old man.

SORCERESS

The Elders used their mystic power to imprison Marzo in an old man's body, and had him exiled to the dark hemisphere, beneath the valley of Geryon.

SMOKY SCENE fades. BACK ON SORCERESS & HE-MAN, who puzzles:

HE-MAN

What was to stop Marzo from using his magic to escape?

SORCERESS - points and we see an IMAGE OF AN AMULET soaring high and becoming nestled in a thin rocky ridge.

SORCERESS (VO)

The source of Marzo's power was a magic Amulet. The Elders had it placed far beyond the reach of man, deep within a ridge in The Sands of Fire.

SORCERESS addresses He-Man, then half turns as if picking up vibrations from the air.

SORCERESS

Be on your guard.

EXT. THE SANDS OF FIRE -- LATER

A DAGGER SHAPED OPENING in a cliff, the size of a man's head. PULL BACK TO REVEAL - MEKANEK on the far side of a SANDY STRIP, from which FIRE PUSTULES perilously shoot up unexpectedly & sporadically. <The sandy strip stands between him & the cliff with the dagger shaped opening in it.> MEKANEK looks up from the map, and stares up at the opening.

WIDEN - MEKANEK - extending his neck across the sand toward the opening. A FIRE PUSTULE BURSTS inches below him. He looks down in alarm.

MekaneK's HEAD AND NECK enter the dagger-like opening.

INT. THE DAGGER-LIKE "TUNNEL" -- CONTINUOUS

TRACK - MEKANEK'S HEAD & NECK snaking thru small jagged holes in the "tunnel," providing an eerie glow to his journey. He snakes upwards, along a last narrow "tunnel" which grants him just enough room to squeeze his head and neck through. He reaches a narrow ledge, and then he sees it:

MEKANEK POV - Atop the ledge, is the AMULET. MEKANEK'S head enters shot and he grabs it in his teeth.

EXT. EVERGREEN FOREST -- LATER

MEKANEK holds out the amulet.

REVERSE ON MARZO - staring at the AMULET, its twinkles reflecting in his greedy eyes.

Marzo greedily grabs the AMULET & starts to walk away, carrying the cage with the two Eternian Rats, forgetting all about Mekanek, who calls:

MEKANEK

Wait! What about these powers?

Marzo doesn't even stop....just nonchalantly waves his hand back in Mek's direction, as:

MEKANEK - he REACTS surprised as a MAGIC VORTEX swirls around his mid-section, then suddenly GETS SUCKED OUT of him,

THHHWOOOP! sending him falling backward to the ground.

Mekanek on the ground, picks up a rock. CLOSER – he closes his hand around it, squeezes. Opens his hand: the rock is uncrushed.

MEKANEK gets up & sighs, as if to say, "oh well, back to normal."

EXT. EVERGREEN FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

MARZO - stops in a secluded wooded area. PUSH IN - Smiling greedily, he puts on his AMULET and closes his eyes. ENERGY COURSES thru him & in a fantastic display of <magical FX> he TRANSFORMS into the evil-looking REGAL MAN the Sorceress showed He-Man – COUNT MARZO. <NOTE: Count Marzo retains the old world accent of Old Man Marzo, but has a much deeper, younger and more menacing tone to his voice. He has a very haughty demeanor.>

MARZO - waves his HAND and thru the SMOKE left over from his magical transformation - we see SUCCESSION OF IMAGES OF: 1) the destroyed HALL OF

WISDOM; 2) the PALACE OF ETERNIA; 3) CAPT. MIRO'S IMAGE which dissolves into an image of KING RANDOR, standing before the ETERNIAN PALACE.

COUNT MARZO

So the Hall of Wisdom is no more and Randor, son of Miro now rules the Kingdom of Eternia.

MARZO - faces the cage with the two rats in it. His amulet starts to glow.

COUNT MARZO

Then it is there we shall exact our revenge. Yes, my pets?

ON CAGE - it gets BATHED in a MAGICAL GLOW which FLASHES OUT CAMERA. As the glow disappears, the cage lies shattered... and standing there...instead of the rats...are TWO FIERCE BEASTS (ala hellhounds, exhaling smoke and fire).

As the haughty sinister MARZO & his BEASTS come AT CAMERA, MARZO walks directly INTO CAMERA, like De Niro in Cape Fear, BLACKING OUT FRAME, as we-

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ROYAL PALACE BARN -- LATER

ADAM is napping. <NOTE: We see a few WEIRD, HORSE-LIKE BEASTS in stalls behind him.> CRINGER slumbers beside him, when:

SORCERESS (V.O.)

Adam.

Adam startles awake. CRINGER stirs in response.

ADAM

Whuhh--?

SORCERESS (V.O.)

(urgent) Count Marzo is in the Evergreen Forest and headed for the Royal Palace. He-Man is needed.

ADAM

(bolts upright, getting more alert)
Right.

Adam jumps up, grabs his power sword & transforms into He-Man...

ADAM/HE-MAN

By the power of Grayskull! I have the power!

INTERCUT - The horse-like Eternian beasts in their stalls REACT to the transformation, agitated by the light. We HEAR the OS SOUND OF HE-MAN ZAPPING Cringer into BATTLECAT.

BATTLECAT REARS UP & ROARS. HE-MAN LEAPS on & they race off.

EXT. HILL AND CLEARING ON EDGE OF FOREST -- LATER

MARZO & his FIERCE BEASTS come striding over a small hilly rise, emerging from the Evergreen Forest. Beneath the hill, a tranquil, grassy clearing, bordered by some large bushy areas. Suddenly, his HOUNDS howl. COUNT MARZO halts. His hounds sit, panting, acid dripping from their mouths, sizzling to the ground. He narrows his eyes and scans the area.

HE-MAN & BATTLECAT emerge from out behind the bushy area. He-Man strikes a pose.

HE MAN

That's far enough, Marzo!

MARZO - arches a haughty eyebrow and smiles. His AMULET glows ominously.

COUNT MARZO

(menacing, haughty) Oh? I disagree.

ON AMULET - as a POWER BLAST shoots out.

HE-MAN leaps clear of the POWER BLAST, by doing a deft aerial somersault. THE BLAST craters the ground he vacated.

ON MARZO - he sneers, commands his beasts:

COUNT MARZO

Destroy them!

WIDE ON THE BEASTS - CHARGING down the hill, acid dripping from their maws.

BATTLECAT races out to meet the beasts -- just as He-Man races towards MARZO.



BATTLECAT GROWLS and REARS up, challenging the beasts. They ROAR their acceptance of the challenge & RUSH toward him. BATTLECAT clashes with both beasts like a rearing stallion, taking them both on. (NOTE: Throughout He-Man's assault on Marzo, Battlecat continues this "duel".)

OTS HE-MAN - charging, does an athletic "leaping forward" somersault, but as he lands, several yards in front of Marzo, Marzo's AMULET sends out BLASTS OF ENERGY.

HE-MAN swings his sword at the incoming, even as he deftly spins, somersaults & zigs & zags, closing the gap between himself & Marzo.

MARZO reacts a bit worriedly to He-Man's prowess...but JUST as HE-MAN gets near: Marzo's AMULET -- sends out a glow, encasing himself in a SPHERICAL FORCE-FIELD.

MARZO smiles haughtily from inside the forcefield.

MARZO
Impossible to penetrate.

HE-MAN raises his sword...

HE-MAN
We'll see.

...and LEAPS, STRIKING the forcefield a mighty blow. Upon impact, the FORCEFIELD sends a sizzling BOLT OF MYSTIC ENERGY down He-Man's sword -- energy coursing all over and thru him -- then HURLING HIM BACK 25 YARDS, so he hits the ground hard.

HE-MAN
Eyyyaaggghhhh...<impact GRUNT>

BATTLECAT - in mid-ROARING battle with the hounds, glances back to see He-Man's distress. Just then a MARZO BLAST strikes him a glancing blow...knocking some of his armor off...as he ROARS out in pain and falls over, dazed.

MARZO (no longer in the forcefield) strides past the downed He-Man, who rasps out....

HE-MAN
(weak) Marzo...I *will* stop you.

MARZO pays little heed, as he strides on with a sneer, but then pauses, turns as his amulet GLOWS.

COUNT MARZO

(coy) Oh, I think not. (then) But just to be sure.

MARZO's amulet shoots out a BEAM that ZAPS He-Man with a punishing MAGIC BLAST, making him lose consciousness.

HE-MAN

<pained CRY> <then, Unnnnnhhhhh...>

TRACK MARZO - as he strides past the fallen Battlecat, & his Beasts flank him. As he says the second half of his line, Marzo glances down at his AMULET, which PULSES and GLOWS.

COUNT MARZO

Come my pets <glancing at pulsing amulet>, we have a kingdom to destroy.

MARZO again strides forward INTO CAMERA, flanked by his beasts, toward Eternia on his mission of destruction.

WIPE TO:

EXT. A FIELD NEAR THE PALACE -- LATER

MEKANEK emerges from the forest as we see the PALACE ahead of him, in the distance. He hears a RUSTLING, HEADING TOWARDS HIM -- coming thru some thick bushes. He stops & girds himself...weapon at the ready. CLOSER ON MEKANEK - reacting surprised, to see:

CUT TO:

EXT. PALACE GROUNDS -- SAME TIME

MAN-E-FACES & RAM-MAN get blasted back by a BLAST...& hit the ground -- dazed. They land next to an already knocked out Buzz-Off & Teela. LIGHTNING CRACKLES in the sky, SMOKE everywhere.

MAN E FACES AND RAM MAN

<pained GRUNT>

REVERSE - MARZO - flanked by hounds, AMULET still glowing from the blast, surveys the downed Masters with a haughty look.

MARZO

<chuckles> These are the "protectors" of Eternia?
Pathetic.



REVEAL MAA - battered from battle, but grimly determined, stealthily races up to an adjacent area (behind a statue or wall & behind Marzo). PUSH IN as he readies his WRIST CANNON.

ON MARZO - his hounds growl. His eyes shift slightly, as he gets a sly, knowing look.

ANGLE - MARZO spins -- just as MAA races out to fire. MAA is BLASTED back by an AMULET BLAST..& falls to the ground dazed.

MAN-AT-ARMS

<pained CRY> <dazed GROAN>

NEW ANGLE - As MARZO surveys all the downed Masters...some are still stirring...then turns to his two beasts who sit PANTING beside him.

COUNT MARZO

Release the vapors.

CLOSE ON THE BEASTS - who stand on their haunches and open their mouths, exhaling a horrible YELLOW VAPOR.

ON TEELA - starting to get up...but as the YELLOW VAPOR hits her, she PASSES OUT.

Teela

Grunts!

ANGLE - The beasts' VAPOR RUSHES outward toward all of the palace and beyond. (think: the Nuclear Explosion in Terminator)

REVEAL -- ORKO ZIPPING in. He's looking frantic.

ORKO

Mekane! You seen He-Man?! Gotta find He-Man!-

MEKANEK

Why? What's going on?

ORKO rushes onto MEK's chest -- and gestures frantically.

ORKO

(frantic)

Doncha know?! An evil wizard's attackin' Eternia!



MEKANEK worriedly peers past Orko toward the palace.

MEKANEK

What about the Masters?

ORKO

Tryin' to stop him! But they're losin'! I gotta find He-Man!

As ORKO suddenly ZIPS off, MEKANEK - looks from the direction Orko is zipping off to, then turns towards the palace.

MEKANEK - engages a SCOPE-LIKE-DEVICE -- that covers his goggles as he raises his neck & looks toward the palace.

MEK'S SCOPE POV - STRATOS is slumped over a rampart, knocked out. PAN ACROSS THE RAMPARTS - ROYAL GUARDS lie sprawled.

BACK ON MEKANEK - He looks grim.

Teela

Grunts

CUT TO:

EXT. A PLAIN BETWEEN THE PALACE AND THE FOREST -- SAME TIME

MekaneK RACES toward the castle. He sees the YELLOW VAPOR heading his way.

MEKANEK gets a grim look, then RAISES HIS NECK, so it rises above the outpouring vapor cloud, then continues on his way.

EXT. A FOREST CLEARING -- SAME TIME

CLOSE ON BATTLECAT - who's standing over the unconscious HE-MAN. Battlecat nudges He-Man roughly with his head. HE-MAN stirs a bit, but does not awaken.

ON ORKO - as he rushes into scene.

ORKO

He-Man! (then)Stand back Battlecat!



BATTLECAT backs off. ORKO conjures up a big JUG that HOVERS in the air....then, as he waves his hand, it dumps over...

ON HE-MAN as WATER and ICE tumbles onto him. He-MAN stirs awake.

HE-MAN
<GLUB> Wha-- Orko...

ORKO hovers, looking proud.

ORKO
Hey, it worked! (then, urgent) Oh, yeah, there's this evil wizard and he's--

HE-MAN quickly gets up, leaps onto Battlecat's back & rides off.

HE-MAN
I know. (as he rides off) Oh and Orko? Next time, *warm* water.

ORKO - his proud smile fades a bit, as he shrugs sheepishly.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD -- SAME TIME

EST. A blanket of YELLOW VAPOR stretches miles in all directions.

LOW ANGLE - MARZO'S LEGS - walking past 8 ROYAL GUARDS -- all knocked out. Then PAN UP TO MARZO looking down at them.

MARZO
<haughty chuckle>

MARZO REACTS surprised, as he HEARS footsteps & suddenly looks up to SEE:

MEKANEK - or rather his body. His head and neck are raised above the YELLOW VAPOR cloud.

HIGH ANGLE - ABOVE THE VAPORS - OTS MEKANEK - looking down thru the VAPORS at MARZO.

MARZO
Ah, my stretchy necked friend. (then sinister, to hounds) Sic him.

THE TWO HOUNDS - snarling, ready to attack.



MEKANEK - neck extended above the vapors - looks OS, sees something. (the row of Elder Statues)

MEKANEK shoots his neck down, then BOBS his head back and forth -- in a taunting, attention-getting way.

THE HOUNDS watch his head dart this way and that -- angrily.

MEK'S head and NECK shoot sideways -- then suddenly stop in between two elder statues as he makes a TAUNTING SOUND at CAMERA.

MEKANEK

<taunting sound>

THE HOUNDS roar and leap. Just at that second, Mek retracts his neck.

THE HOUNDS soar in-between the statues and over the side of the cliff with a roar.

ON MARZO - seeing this, scowls, furious.

MARZO

<Angered grunt>

MARZO - his amulet shoots out a BLAST.

MEKANEK gets blasted back into a COURTYARD WALL -- winds up dazed, but his head still above the vapor line.

MEKANEK

<impact GRUNT> <dazed GROAN>

MARZO smirks, then turns away. He looks down at his amulet and smiles evilly.

MARZO

And now...

THE AMULET glows brighter and brighter... when suddenly a voice booms out.

HE-MAN (OS)

(calls) The amulet, Marzo!

MARZO looks, then PAN UP TO HE-MAN standing upon a RAMPARTS, calling down. He's above the vapor cloud.

MARZO



Laugh - You are too late. In five seconds, all that will remain standing is me, protected by my magic.

MARZO takes off his amulet...and dangles it from his hand.

MARZO

Of course if you want to come down here and get it...(coy) But then you might find the air a bit-- Wha?!

Suddenly, MEKANEK'S head races into SHOT from OS and SNATCHES the AMULET with his teeth!

ZOOM ON MARZO - stunned at what just happened, as...

MEKANEK - with a strong flick of his head, throws the amulet upward...

HIGH ANGLE - ON HE-MAN - as the AMULET flies in and he grabs it -- it's glowing even STRONGER now.

NEW ANGLE - HE-MAN draws back & HURLS THE AMULET - mightily.

EXT. SKY -CONT.

The AMULET hurls thru the air...miles.

EXT. THE OCEAN OF GNARL -- MOMENTS LATER

The AMULET lands in the ocean. PLUNK! A beat, then it detonates underwater, causing a MASSIVE EXPLOSION.

EXT. THE PALACE COURTYARD -- SAME TIME

MARZO looking distressed. MEKANEK stands behind him, neck raised above the vapors, arms holding Marzo in a strong grasp.

UPON THE RAMPARTS - HE-MAN holds his sword outwards and spins. Faster and faster until he's a blur.

WIDE DOWN SHOT - the colossal force of the vortex made by the spinning makes the YELLOW VAPOR disperse.

BACK ON GROUND - Marzo, miserable, struggles in Mekanek's arms, as HE-MAN somersaults down and lands in front of them.

MEKANEK

I've got a new wish, Marzo. Seeing you behind bars.

HE-MAN smiles and nods at Mekanek, as he takes Marzo off his hands, then leads MARZO off towards the palace.

HE MAN

Wish granted. (as he heads off) You know, that neck of yours is pretty special, Mekanek.

ON MEKANEK - smiling a bit proudly, watching HE-MAN march Marzo off towards palace.

MEKANEK

That's what Prince Adam said. I... guess I should've listened.

HE-MAN heading past CAMERA, holding MARZO, smiles to himself.

HE-MAN

(wryly) Guess you should have. That Adam's a pretty smart kid.

And as a wry HE-MAN comes straight into CAMERA, we...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN: MORAL TAG

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD- DAY

HE-MAN's VOICE IS HEARD as we: PAN DOWN from STRATOS flying in the sky...to MEKANEK grabbing an ETERNIAN-STYLE KITE out of tree with his teeth, then CAMERA FOLLOWS as he lowers his neck & gives the kite to a happy KID. CAMERA FOLLOWS as the KID runs off happily, past MAN E ROBOT, who playing ETERNIAN CHESS against BUZZ OFF. PAN TO HE-MAN looking OS at this, then addressing CAMERA.

HE-MAN (PARTIAL OS)

Everybody's special. We each have our own unique talents and abilities. (to CAMERA)

So instead of wanting to be like others -- try and be
the best *you* that you can be. Until next time!

FADE OUT.

THE END

